

Briefing Paper 11

College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

UNDERSTANDING OUR HISTORY

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The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide an overview of the history of the college. A chart at the back maps the history of the various units in the college.

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1) **The trajectory of UIC**

- 1.1 Mayor Richard J. Daley (first elected in 1955) wanted to build a Chicago campus of the University of Illinois and included a proposal in a 1958 development plan. There was much conflict about where this campus should be located. Despite resistance from the Harrison-Halsted community the present campus site was selected and the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle (UICC) – as it was named – was founded in 1965.
- 1.2 The 118-acre site had a significant impact on the local neighborhood. As many as 14,000 residents and 630 businesses were displaced (1). The university has then, grown on one of the nation’s great urban renewal battlegrounds.
- 1.3 In 1982 UICC was merged with the Medical Center to create a single campus. The university, which was renamed the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), now has around 25,000 students (including over 6,000 graduate), 2,350 faculty, 2,660 administrative and professional staff and 5,300 support staff. The new Provost, Michael Tanner, started work on 1 July 2002 and is committed to establishing UIC as the nation’s model, public, urban research university.

2) **The Urban Planning and Policy (UPP) Program**

- 2.1 In 1967, the new university established a Center for Urban Studies, which was concerned with research and public service. A team of outside consultants, led by John Duba, was commissioned to examine how the university should address urban problems (2). The “Duba Report” of 1969 proposed establishing a new college to encompass three previously separated academic functions: instruction, research and community service. The college would operate on the agricultural extension model, with faculty working directly with local government agencies or community groups.
- 2.2 An Ad Hoc Committee on Urban Programs chaired by Professor Boyd Keenan was set up to consider the “Duba Report” and, after extensive deliberation, recommended in 1970 the creation of a College of Urban Sciences. Two years of on-campus deliberation of the “Keenan Report” followed the Faculty Senate vote approving the proposal. The first dean– Charles Orlebeke– arrived in 1973 to lead the new college, which had two activities - the Master of Urban Planning and Policy (MUPP) and the Center for Urban Studies (which was to continue to focus on research and public service activities).

- 2.3 From the outset there was a tension between those who imagined UICC should become a “Harvard on Halsted” and those who envisioned a new College of Urban Sciences based on service as well as scholarship.
- 2.4 Initially the Urban Planning faculty identified four areas of specialization: Education Planning, Urban Policy Planning, Community Development and Health Planning. There was a strong commitment to community organizing and citizen participation. Pat Wright, now Director of the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement and one of 25 students in the first class, found it a stimulating experience: “We were being trained to be ‘change agents’. We thought of ourselves as wanting to change the world, not just accept it the way it is” (3). In 1997 the areas of specialization were changed—see 4.4 below.
- 2.5 The PhD program in Public Policy Analysis (PPA), which was approved in 1975, was offered jointly with the departments of Political Science and Economics and the College of Education. A 1975 effort to launch an undergraduate program in urban studies was supported by the campus administration but voted down by the University Senate. A new proposal has, however, resurfaced in the last couple of years. In 1979 the UPP program received official recognition as a planning program from the American Planning Association. A new PhD in Urban Planning and Policy (UPP) was approved in 2000 and the PPA PhD is now being phased out.

3) Research Centers in the 1970’s

- 3.1 As mentioned above the Center for Urban Studies was established in 1967 to conduct applied research on urban problems and to provide technical assistance to Chicago’s many neighborhood organizations. Directed, in the first instance, by Bill Garrison, the center’s approach was multi-disciplinary. Professors held joint appointments in systems engineering, psychology, sociology and political science.
- 3.2 A “program” for Urban Economic Development was started in 1978. This became the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED) in 1980. Jane Byrne, who was elected Mayor of Chicago in 1979, hired CUED to carry out a series of community workshops on economic development. The birth of CUED heralded the death of the Center for Urban Studies. The first director of CUED was Rob Mier and one of the first people he hired was Wim Wiewel, later to become the Dean of CUPPA. CUED quickly established a reputation as one of the most effective community economic development centers in the country and was successful in attracting a stream of external funding.
- 3.3 The Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement was founded in 1978 to provide technical assistance and research services to community organizations. Alan Voorhees had been dean of the

College of Architecture, Art and Urban Sciences. He and his wife endowed the center with a major gift.

- 3.4 The Survey Research Laboratory (SRL), launched in 1964, was established to carry out surveys for university research projects, promote research in survey methods, teach students in survey methods and act as a repository for survey data on the state of Illinois (4). The center, which was initially based only at the Urbana-Champaign campus, grew rapidly. In 1969 it became an all-university unit with a Chicago office. In 1974 Dick Warnecke was appointed as deputy director and head of the Chicago office and the volume of SRL activity expanded markedly in the 1970's. During the 1980's it was less easy to attract funding and this was a difficult period for the SRL. However, under the leadership of Warnecke (who took over as director in 1981), the center survived these challenges and is now a successful organization with 20 staff members in Chicago and seven staff members in Urbana-Champaign.
- 3.5 The Urban Transportation Center (UTC), set up as a campus unit in 1979, has conducted quantitative analysis on a range of transportation issues including mass transit and highway development. The official mission of the center is broad: "To improve the quality of life in the Chicago Metropolitan Area and other urban areas through the creation, dissemination and application of transportation related to knowledge." The center, which now attracts a substantial flow of external funding, has a strong local and international reputation.

4) Links between Urban Planning and Policy and Architecture

- 4.1 The College of Urban Sciences was the smallest college at UICC. In 1976 the Dean of Architecture and Art left and the UICC administration decided to merge the two colleges into the College of Architecture, Art and Urban Sciences. This merger took place in 1978.
- 4.2 George Hemmens was the first planner to be hired as the director of the School of Urban Sciences in 1981. There was division within the School between those who favored a focus on community planning and social service and those who felt it was important to focus more sharply on physical planning and professional recognition. Hemmens signaled a key shift with a name change from the School of Urban Science to the School of Urban Planning and Policy, which took place in or around 1983.
- 4.3 Hemmens served as director until 1986 when the leadership passed to Charles Orlebeke who was director until 1994. He put a lot of energy into student recruitment and, in 1987, visited the People's Republic of China where he met Ting Wei Zhang, who was then at Tongyi University. Zhang took his doctorate at UICC and later joined the faculty. This, plus other contacts, has led to strong links between the UPP program and China.

- 4.4 During the 1980s annual admissions of new students increased and the college now has 172 MUPP students and 20 planning PhD students. The Urban Planning and Policy Student Association was formed in the early 1980s. The contribution of the college to the Community Development Corporation (CDC) movement was particularly strong in this period. In 1997 the Urban Planning faculty identified five areas of specialization: Community Development, Economic Development, Physical Planning, Urban Transportation, and International Department.
- 4.5 The Urban Planning and Policy (UPP) Program has always had links with the City of Chicago. Back in the mid 1970's Charles Orlebeke established links with Planning Commissioner Lew Hill, a powerful commissioner with close links to Mayor Richard Daley. In 1983 Harold Washington became Chicago's first black mayor. Rob Mier, the first director of CUED, became Mayor Washington's Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development. This did not necessarily lead to a closer link between the UPP and the city as Mier was concerned not to favor the organization he had just left. However, the mid 1980's saw the UPP and its two research centers – the Center for Urban Economic Development and the Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement - increase their public visibility markedly. Despite being located in a college with architecture it seems that the UPP faculty operated fairly independently.

5) The Public Administration (PA) Program

- 5.1 The first admission to the Public Agency Administration track in the Masters of Administrative Services (MAS) – a degree delivered through informal understanding spanning three UICC colleges – took place in 1977. When one of the track options separated out to become the nationally accredited Masters of Business Administration (MBA) there was a need to rethink and strengthen the Public Agency Administration track.
- 5.2 In the mid 1980's a new Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program was created. Located administratively in the Graduate College, it had an identifiable office, a Director, and an Assistant Director. The Curriculum was delivered by faculty in several departments including Political Science, Urban Planning and Policy and Economics. In 1987 this MPA was accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). Over the years three academic strengths have been developed by the faculty: Information Technology, Budgeting and Financial Management and Management of Public Organizations. In recent years the annual intake of students has increased and the college now has 80 MPA students and 14 Public Administration PhD students.

5.3 In the early 1990's faculty developed a proposal for a PhD in Public Administration and this was approved in 1996.

5.4 The Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) is not part of the college but it has important links with the Public Administration program. Originally, set up in 1947 the IGPA is a campus-wide unit, which seeks to improve public policies and the performance of government. It carries out research on relevant issues and disseminates this research to decision-makers. Most of the faculty in IGPA has part-time appointments in University of Illinois colleges. The IGPA has links with several CUPPA units and Jack Knott, the director, has a courtesy appointment in Public Administration.

6) The Great Cities Initiative

6.1 Chancellor James Stukel set up a Great Cities Advisory Committee in 1993 to develop the Great Cities Initiative (GCI) at UIC. At that time the aim of the GCI was to improve the quality of life in Chicago through teaching, research and science. Wim Wiewel, who was then Special Assistant to the Chancellor, chaired the committee, which was charged with refining the Great Cities concept and making recommendations to enhance the initiative.

6.2 The Final Report of the Great Cities Initiative, which was published in 1994, recommended, inter alia, the creation of a new College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (5). The report argued that UIC faculty and staff were already active in policy development and evaluation of: public finance, public housing management, land use and transportation planning, economic development, Chicago's politics and government and community revitalization. In addition, fundamental research on the nature and dynamics of cities was taking place alongside important educational and training programs for students in urban planning, public policy and public administration. The report argued that: "By restructuring and enhancing existing academic units through the establishment of a College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, UIC will increase its ability to play a leadership role in these activities"(6).

7) The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

7.1 The Final Report of the Great Cities Advisory Committee described the overall mission of the new college as follows:

"Its mission will be to create, disseminate, and apply multi-disciplinary knowledge about urban and public affairs to improve the quality of life in metropolitan Chicago and other urban areas nationally and internationally. It will be the goal of the College to become nationally and internationally prominent in its field (7)."

7.2 The College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) was established in 1995 as a key element of the UIC Great Cities Initiative. At the outset it consisted of two academic programs:

- Public Administration program (now directed by Michael Pagano)
- Urban Planning and Policy program (now directed by Charles Hoch)

and five research centers:

- Center for Urban Economic Development (now directed by Nik Theodore)
- Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement (now directed by Pat Wright)
- Urban Transportation Center (now directed by Sue McNeil)
- Survey Research Laboratory (now directed by Timothy Johnson)
- Great Cities Institute (now directed by David Perry)

In recent years two further research units have been added: the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP) and the Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Laboratory.

7.3 The fairly long established UIC research centers have, then, been joined by three relatively new research centers:

- The Great Cities Institute is a focal point for UIC's Great Cities Commitment. It has a Faculty Seed fund, which provides start-up funds for research on urban issues; a Faculty Scholars program, which enables selected faculty to leave their duties for a period to participate in multidisciplinary urban projects; and the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, a comprehensive university-community partnership with the neighborhoods adjacent to UIC.
- The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP), which began work in 1996, is a multicultural research center that examines the intersection of race/ethnicity and public policy in a comparative context. Phillip Bowman was hired as director in 2000.
- The Great Cities Urban Visualization Laboratory (GCUDVL), which was established in 1998, conducts high tech urban and regional visualization research serving UIC Faculty, students and external public and community agencies. Albert Schorsch coordinated GCUDVL until Michael Shiffer was hired in 2001.

7.4 It should also be noted that the college collaborates with the College of Architecture and the Arts in supporting the work of the UIC City Design Center.

This multidisciplinary center promotes the study and practice of design in the public interest.

- 7.5 Alan Lerner, the first Interim Dean for CUPPA, served from 1995 until 1996 when Wim Wiewel was appointed as the first Dean of the College. Dean Wiewel led a planning exercise, which produced the first Strategic Plan for the college in 1997 (8). This Strategic Plan now needs updating.
- 7.6 In 1999 Wim Wiewel became Interim Dean of the College of Business Administration, while maintaining his deanship of CUPPA. Albert Schorsch served as Acting Dean and represented CUPPA at the Dean's Council during the 1999-2000 academic year. Wim Wiewel became Dean of the College of Business Administration in 2000 and David Perry, who was appointed as the new Director of the Great Cities Institute in 1999, took over as Interim Dean. In 2000 CUPPA launched a new magazine to lift the profile of the college and to strengthen links with an increasingly active CUPPA Alumni Association. In 2001 UIC carried out a search for a new Dean and Robin Hambleton was appointed with effect from July 2002.

8) Mapping the trajectory of CUPPA

- 8.1 The attached chart captures some of the main events in the emergence and evolution of CUPPA. It covers a thirty-year period and reminds us that our history is characterized by both continuity and innovation. There is continuity with the ideal of the "Duba Report" of 1969 advocating an approach to scholarship combining instruction, research and community service. The college continues to combine a commitment to academic excellence with an enthusiasm for policy relevance and community engagement. This combination would please the pioneers who developed the urban planning and public administration programs back in the 1970's.
- 8.2 A key lesson for the future, however, is that UIC has not stood still. On the contrary, there has been a striking amount of innovation and organizational change. This ability to see new opportunities and take bold new initiatives in line with the overall mission of the university is a key strength CUPPA can build on as we plan ahead.

References

- 1) Cohen A. and Taylor E. (2000) *American Pharaoh*. New York: Little Brown, p232.
- 2) In 1998 the Urban Planning and Policy (UPP) program celebrated 25 years of achievement since the launch of the program in 1973. The text below draws heavily on: Sorrells V. (1998) *Growing UPP Together. A brief history of the UIC Urban Planning and Policy Program*. CUPPA: Internal paper.
- 3) Quoted in Sorrells V. (1998) *Ibid* p 6
- 4) Sudman S. and colleagues (1994) *A thirty year history of the Survey Research Laboratory*. Survey Research Laboratory, University of Illinois.
- 5) *Final Report of the Great Cities Advisory Committee* (1994) University of Illinois at Chicago
- 6) *Ibid* p 7
- 7) *Ibid* p 10
- 8) *Strategic Plan*. College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Fall 1997.